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COUNTRY Hungary

SECURITY

TOPIC Central Hungarian Army Artillery Ordnance Depot in Budapest

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DATE OF CONTENT 5 March to 10 September 1951

DATE PREPARED 8 January 1952

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PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

1 - sketch on ditto

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25X1 1. From 5 to 10 September 1951 the Central Hungarian Army Artillery Ordnance Depot, [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] was located in Budapest IX. It was situated on the premises of the
 ordnance depot of the former Hungarian Army, which was badly damaged by air raids during
 the war. The majority of the buildings of the depot were newly constructed. (1) The
 depot furnished supplies to the Hungarian Army and the security troops. The depot also
 did major repair work on guns. It was controlled by a section of the War Department.
 The responsibilities of its commander corresponded to those of a regimental commander.

2. The depot was organized into the headquarters, 1 guard company, 1 armorer-artificer,
 maintenance NCO candidate and ordnance officer school, 1 spare parts section, 1
 receiving section, 1 administration of the infantry weapons depot and 1 of the
 artillery equipment park.

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3.

4. The guard company commanded by Lieutenant Rezső Katona, infantry, was organized into
 the headquarters and three platoons, each of which included three squads comprising
 one squad leader and 10 EM. The company had two officers and 151 EM, about 40 of whom
 were assigned to various sections of the depot as clerks and stock administrators.
 Lieutenant Lajos Tischler, infantry, a former mine worker, was the political officer
 of the guard company.

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who were instructed in repairing artillery equipment. Each course lasted eight months, six of which were spent with theoretical indoctrination and two with practical instruction in the workshops. According to their qualifications, the participants were discharged on the completion of the courses either as officers or NCOs. The actual courses were to be terminated in October 1951. They were the third cycle of courses of this type held at the depot. The participants in the course for ordnance officers, which started in August 1951 and numbered about 50 officers, included officers of all branches of service, including air force officers. Everyone at the school wore a golden "T" on their epaulets, which were bordered with a golden cord.

6. The spare parts section commanded by [redacted] was staffed with the section director and 15 EM. This section placed orders for spare parts and other materials, stored them and supervised the storage rooms. The receiving section commanded [redacted] an officer of the former army, comprised about 20 EM. The members of this section received and inspected the equipment supplied by the factories, distributed it to the individual depot sections, and corresponded with the military units to which weapons were allocated.

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7. The infantry weapons depot was directed by a chief and had special supervisors in charge of the storage of pistols, rifles, submachine guns, light machine guns, and heavy machine guns. It also controlled an ordnance repair shop, with a labor force of about 20 EM. Whenever needed, this shop was assigned civilian contract employees from the ordnance depot headquarters. The artillery equipment park was organized like that of the infantry weapons depot. It also controlled a separate repair shop.

8. The men of the guard company came from all parts of Hungary. They included members of the 1926 class. The youngest belonged to the 1929 and 1930 classes. A great number of the men assigned to the depot wore red artillery service color. Source also saw men wearing green, red-and-white, and bordeaux service color. The men on guard duty were very careful because negligence while on guard duty was subject to severe penalties. In consequence of their long and arduous duty, the men were fairly moody. The meals were good and well prepared.

9. A considerable number of weapons were stored in the open. Muzzles and breechblocks of these weapons were protected by covers. The storehouses were filled to approximately half capacity. Numerous open air storage areas to store more artillery equipment were available. [redacted]

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[redacted] the weapons stored there included: about 1,500 model 48 x 7.62-mm pistols; about 15,000 model 48 x 7.62-mm rifles; about 13,000 model 48 x 7.62-mm submachine guns with drum magazine - as far as [redacted] determine, the weapons mentioned above were manufactured at the Lámpagyár lamp factory, a former Hungarian weapons and machine factory, on Soroksári Street, Budapest; 3,000 to 4,000 model 48 x 7.62-mm light machine guns with drum magazines, some of which were Hungarian-made and manufactured at the above mentioned lamp factory; (2) very small quantities of German model 42 machine guns and Hungarian WW II model 8-mm machine guns; about 150 x 82-mm mortars with round base plates; (3) about 150 x 120-mm mortars mounted on two-wheeled carts with rubber tires; (4) about 200 Hungarian-made 45-mm AT guns equipped with rubber tire wheels, split trail gun carriages and barrels without muzzle brakes and manufactured in Diosgyoer (R 49/J 87); (5) about 200 German and Hungarian WW II model 75-mm AT guns; about 150 Hungarian-made 76-mm AT guns, which were also made in Diosgyoer and were equipped with barrels with pear-shaped muzzle brakes, rubber tire wheels and split trail gun carriages; (5) about 200 Soviet-made 122-mm

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howitzers; about 100 Soviet-made 152-mm howitzers; about 40 x 122-mm guns equipped with barrels, longer than those of the howitzers, and compensators vertically installed on either side of the barrels, about 25 of which mounted muzzle brakes; (6) about 40 long-barreled 152-mm guns similar to the 122-mm pieces and also equipped with compensators vertically installed on either side of the barrels, about 20 of which mounted muzzle brakes; (6) about 100 AA guns of approximately 40-mm with funnel-shaped muzzles, mounted on four rubber tire wheels; (7) an unidentified number of heavy AA guns of about 85-mm, mounted on four rubber tire wheels; (8) and 14 rocket launchers mounted on three-axle trucks supporting eight parallel rails each. (9)

10. Twice, weapons or equipment covered with canvas were taken to a special storehouse, [redacted] observed a large body similar to a large aircraft bomb under the covers. Stabilizers projected from below the covers only on one side. Simultaneously, very long transverse steel girders about 80 cm wide and lattice-shaped arrived at the storehouse. (10) [redacted] was not informed on whether these steel girders belonged to the bomb-shaped devices. The equipment was taken to, unloaded at, and stored in, the depot by soldiers of the depot staff. The storehouse in which the equipment was stored was supervised by Major B. István Závori, artillery, who was of Russian background and spoke Hungarian with a foreign accent. 25X1
11. Besides the above mentioned weapons unidentified quantities of gun components were stored in the ordnance depot. Source also knew that over one thousand demi-joins of about 20 liters containing a yellow oily liquid and inscribed with "poison" were stored there.
12. Additional weapons were constantly shipped to the ordnance depot. According to the supervisor of the infantry weapons depot, the weapons arriving at the depot monthly averaged about 200 pistols, 500 rifles, 500 submachine guns and 100 light machine guns. Not more than 30 guns were supplied monthly. In one month, for instance, the depot only received AT guns and, in another month, only 122-mm howitzers and long-barreled 122-mm guns. No incoming shipments of heavy machine guns and mortars were observed between March and September 1951. The rocket launchers came in in early September 1951. [redacted] crews to operate these weapons were still to be trained. Weapons were constantly distributed to military units. Source believed that the quantities of the artillery equipment stored in the depot was constantly kept at approximately the same level. 25X1
13. Besides the above mentioned courses, high-ranking officers of the War Department were trained with all infantry and artillery weapons twice weekly.
14. Security troops wearing blue service color were also admitted to the depot when producing their identity cards and a special allocation slip.
- 25X1 [redacted] documents.
- (1) For layout sketch of the depot, see Annex 2.
- (2) The "48" models are believed to be imitations of Soviet-made weapons.
- (3) Probably Soviet model 1937 or 1941.
- 25X1 (4) [redacted] Soviet model 1938 or 1943 120-mm mortars.
- (5) The manufacture of Hungarian-made guns in the former Weiss Works in Diósgyőr and Csepel, which was mentioned in a previous report of December 1950, is confirmed.
- 25X1 [redacted]
- (6) Probably Soviet model 122-mm field guns and 152-mm gun howitzers. Previous reports mentioned only 122-mm field guns without muzzle brakes. 25X1

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- (7) Probably Soviet model 1939 light 37-mm AA guns.
- (8) Probably Soviet model 1939 or 1944 85-mm AA guns.
- (9) Probably Soviet model M-13 132-mm rocket launchers.
- (10) Possibly source saw guided missiles.

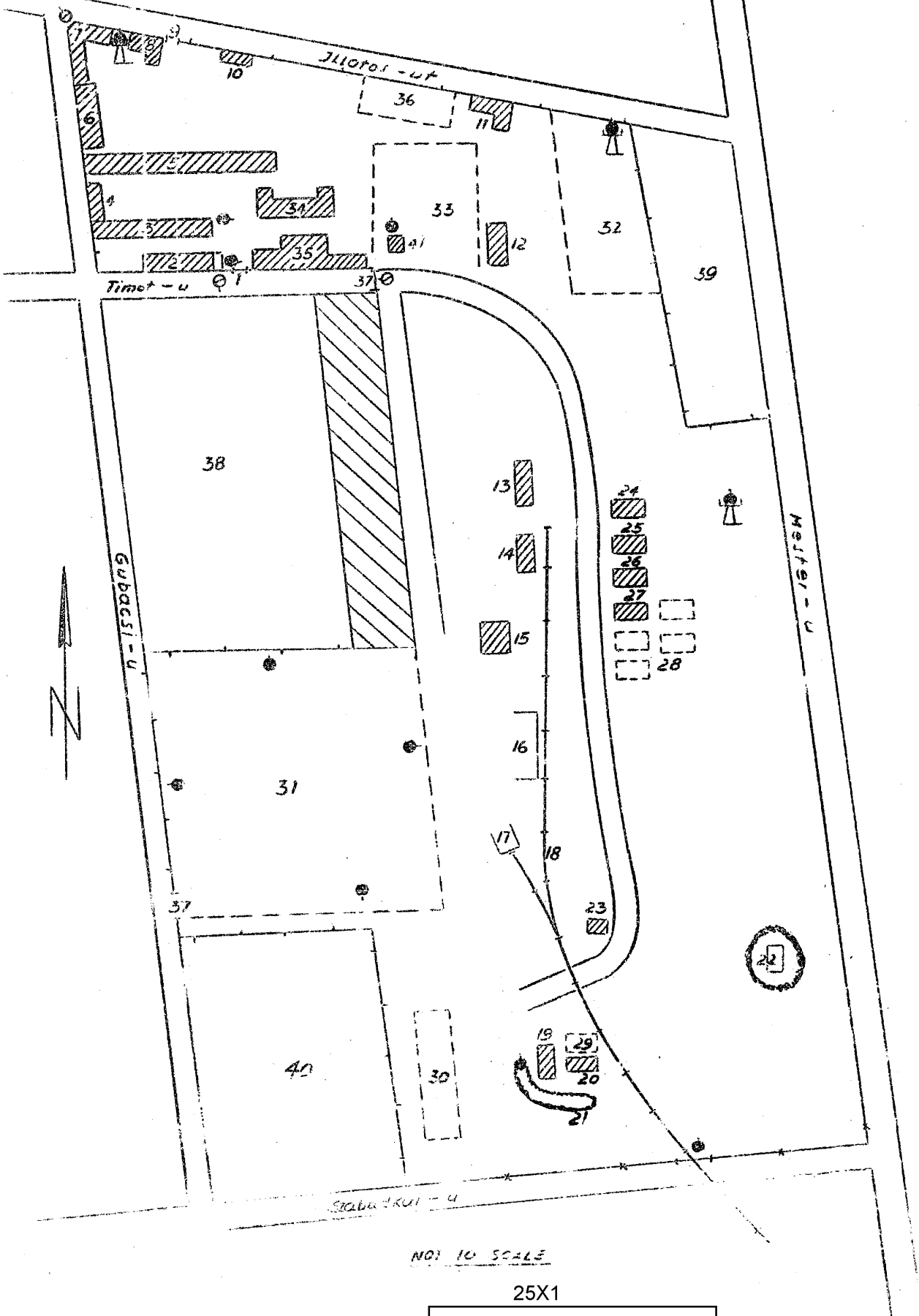
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- 1 -

Legend to the Sketch of the Central Army Artillery Ordnance Depot in Budapest.

- 1 - Entrance.
- 2 - Single-story building, about 25 x 10 meters, housing the headquarters, the Party office, the spare parts section, the receiving section, the administration of the infantry weapons depot, the administration of the artillery equipment park, and the room of the officer on duty.
- 3 - Storehouse for optical equipment, single-storied, about 34 x 8 meters.
- 4 - Garage, single-story, about 14 x 6 meters.
- 5 - Single-story building, about 45 x 10 meters, containing the fire brigade equipment and various storage rooms.
- 6 - Armorer-artificer, maintenance NCO and ordnance officer candidate school, a four-story building, with the kitchen, the mess hall and the entertainment hall of the depot located on the first floor.
- 7 - Three-story building, not far from completion, to serve as billets for the guard company.
- 8 - Single-story building, about 25 x 14 x 12 meters, containing the gun-assembling shop, the telephone switchboard and the paint storage room.
- 9 - Closed entrance.
- 10 - Underground fuel dump, about 12 x 6 meters.
- 11 - Infantry weapons repair shop, single-story, about 18 x 14 x 7 meters.
- 12 - Single-story storehouse containing unidentified weapons, about 30 x 17 meters, covered with a roof painted white.
- 13 - Storehouse containing gun components such as barrels, breechblocks etc., single-story, about 30 x 8 meters.
- 14 - Bluing shop, single-storied, about 30 x 9 meters.
- 15 - Three-story building, about 15 meters square, serving as billets for the guard company up to 10 September 1951.
- 16 - Side-loading ramp, about 30 meters long.
- 17 - End-loading ramp.
- 18 - Railroad spur to the Ferencváros railroad freight yard, constructed in 1951.
- 19 - Oil storehouse, single-storied, about 28 x 7 meters.
- 20 - Single-story storehouse, about 20 x 8 meters, containing WW II weapons of the former Hungarian and German armed forces.
- 21 - Safety embankment.
- 22 - Destroyed building, surrounded by an embankment.
- 23 - Charcoal storehouse, about 8 x 6 meters.

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- 24 - Rifle storehouse, single-storied, about 30 x 10 meters.
- 25 - Submachine gun storehouse, single-storied, about 30 x 10 meters.
- 26 - Light machine gun and pistol storehouse, single-storied, about 30 x 10 meters.
- 27 - Empty storehouse, single-storied, about 30 x 10 meters.
- 28 - Four buildings under construction, about 30 x 10 meters.
- 29 - Storage area for over one thousand demijohns containing a yellowish, oily liquid.
- 30 - German - and Hungarian-made 75-mm AT guns stored.
- 31 - Storage area, about 300 x 250 meters, with AT and AA guns.
- 32 - Storage area, about 300 x 100 meters, with 122-mm and 152-mm guns.
- 33 - Storage area, about 200 x 80 meters, with 122-mm and 152-mm howitzers and rocket launchers.
- 34 - Workshop compound, about 25 x 12 meters, single-storied, containing a carpentry shop, a forge, a lathe shop, an electrician's shop, etc.; an unoccupied watchtower, about 18 meters high, was set up on the east side of the building.
- 35 - Single-story building, about 35 x 10 x 10 meters, housing the supply group, the dispensary, the ration storage room and the guard room.
- 36 - About 24 stored vans from the former army stocks.
- 37 - Entrance for motor vehicles.
- 38 - Young workers' town "Rákosi Mátyás", where apprentices lived.
- 39 - Optical plant.
- 40 - Athletic field of the lamp factory.
- 41 - Single-story storehouse for infantry ammunition, about 5 meters square.
- 42 - Permanent sentries.
- 43 - Manned watchtowers.
- 44 - Check point.

The depot is enclosed by a wire fence on its south and east sides and by a wall, 2.5 meters high, on its west and north sides. Further security measures were not identified, nor were air raid installations available.

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